



Eye on Earth: FALCON Workshop Disaster Management Special Initiative

Attendee Bios

Yasser Ayad

Clarion University

Yasser Ayad is a professor in the Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Earth Sciences at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. He holds his PhD in Environmental Planning from the University of Montreal. Growing up in Egypt, Ayad focused much of his research on the delicate urban environmental interface in his home country. He specializes in GIS, spatial analysis, and urban planning. An active member of the AAG, Ayad is a prominent figure in the academic and professional communities.

David Coronado

Association of American Geographers

As Communications Director for the Association of American Geographers, David Coronado directs and oversees communications programs and public relations strategies. He uses online, social, and traditional media to effectively describe and promote the association and its programs and services. Prior to joining AAG, David practiced communication and graphic design in the healthcare and education sectors, which included a major medical center and a highly rated school district. He earned his master's degree in Public Communication from American University.

Dan Cotter

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Daniel Cotter is the Director for the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility under the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology's First Responders Group. His office works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to use technology to better facilitate the use of information in the case of serious national emergencies. Besides his bureaucratic experience, Cotter has spent years working in the terrain mapping industry, utilizing geographic technologies such as LiDAR and GIS. Cotter holds master's degrees in Business Administration and Geographic & Cartographic Sciences.

Lorant Czarán

UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER

Lorant Czarán is Programme Officer for the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). This intergovernmental organization works to provide access to quality satellite and other space-based information in order to improve national and regional governmental response to emergencies and disasters. Besides his position in UN-SPIDER, Czarán is the Chairperson of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna, Austria. Czarán specializes in geographic information systems and remote sensing technologies.

Ivan DeLoatch

Federal Geographic Data Committee

Ivan DeLoatch is the Executive Director for the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Secretariat. The FGDC is a USGS committee that serves to coordinate access and collection of data by 32 federal agencies. With years of experience in environmental policy, DeLoatch has been a leader in many agencies involving geospatial data, such as the USGS, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Maryland state government.

Vivien Deparday

The World Bank

Vivien Deparday is the OpenDRI Technical Lead at the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)'s Innovation Lab. OpenDRI, or Open Data for Resilience Initiative, makes the most of the trend in open environmental and spatial data to provide solutions for disaster and hazard management. As a geographer, Deparday focuses on public participatory GIS and open source data. He holds a Master's of Science from the University of Waterloo and an engineering degree from Lille University of Science and Technology in France.

Lalanath de Silva

World Resources Institute

Lalanath de Silva is the Director of Environmental Democracy Practice in the Governance Center at the World Resources Institute. There, he ensures that the WRI is working to provide access to environmental information, justice, and services. Before this position, de Silva worked on the WRI's

Access Initiative, helping NGOs and civil society groups with access to information and other human rights concerns. He is a member of the Asian Development Bank's Compliance Review Panel. De Silva holds his Master's of Laws from the University of Washington and his PhD from the University of Sydney Law School in Australia.

Fernando Echavarria

U.S. Department of State

Fernando Echavarria is Foreign Affairs Officer and Scientist at the Bureau of Oceans, Environment & Science at the US Department of State in Washington, DC. Echavarria works in the Office of Space & Advanced Technology at the State Department, where he specializes in remote sensing techniques and the integration of technology and foreign relations. As a research fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he has experience using geographic and spatial methods to further infrastructure and emergency management, particularly in developing countries. Echavarria holds his PhD in geography from the University of South Carolina.

Hilary French

United Nations Environment Programme

Hilary French is a Program Officer at the UNEP's North America Regional Office. There, she focuses on climate change, green economies, and Resource Efficiency. Previously, she has done consulting for the UNEP and served as Vice President for Research and in other leadership positions at Worldwatch Institute. French graduated from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy with a Master's in International Relations.

Debbie Fugate

U.S. Department of State

Debbie Fugate works on demography research for the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC. She is co-editor of *The Youth Bulge*, an anthology of works focusing on the effects of large youth populations. Fugate holds her PhD in Geography from the San Diego State University/University of California, Santa Barbara joint doctoral program, where she specialized in political demography and health geography.

Mei-Po Kwan

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Mei-Po Kwan is a professor of geography and geographic information science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At UIUC, she specializes in environmental health, transportation geography, and mobility. Previously, she was the Belle van Zuylen Chair in the Faculty of Geosciences at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Her fellowships include the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Royal Geographical Society in the UK, and the Association of American Geographers. She received her PhD in Geography from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Candice Luebbering

Association of American Geographers

Candice Luebbering is a Senior Research Geographer for the Association of American Geographers (AAG). She assists with research efforts for many of the AAG's externally funded projects, including current work involving geospatial data privacy issues, disaster management and risk reduction, and trends in geography and geology graduate education curricula. She earned a PhD in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and has previous teaching and/or research experience in human geography, environmental issues, cartography, GIS, medical geography, and geography education.

Aubrey Miller

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Aubrey Miller is Senior Medical Advisor at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Maryland, as well as the NIEHS liaison to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service, Miller has put his knowledge of medical epidemiology to work studying environmental health. He has worked with various federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration. Miller's experience with hazards and disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and anthrax scares make him an expert in emergency responses to public health issues. Miller received his Master's in Public Health in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences from the University of Illinois, and his M.D. from Chicago's Rush Medical College.

Jon Nystrom

ESRI

Jon Nystrom is Federal Account Manager at ESRI, where he works on the Homeland Security and Disaster Response Team. He uses his software development expertise to aid the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other parts of the US Department of Homeland Security in disaster response efforts. His projects include helping FEMA develop flood hazard map databases to be used with Production Line Tool Set for ESRI's ArcGIS software, as well as optimizing ArcGIS for use with other national governments' emergency response programs.

Douglas Richardson

Association of American Geographers

Douglas Richardson is the Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers. Prior to joining the AAG, Dr. Richardson had founded and for 18 years was the president of GeoResearch, Inc., a private scientific research company specializing in geographic research and technology, including geographic information science and systems (GIS), spatial modeling, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). GeoResearch created and patented the world's first real-time interactive GPS/GIS mapping and data collection technology, leading to significant changes in the ways in which geographic information is now collected, mapped, integrated, and used within the field of geography, as well as in society at large. Richardson holds a Ph.D. in Geography from Michigan State University. He has

served on numerous private, public, and NGO boards and committees, including currently the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, chairing its Geolocational Privacy subcommittee.

Brandon Rosage

Ushahidi

Brandon Rosage has recently done web design work at Ushahidi, a technology non-profit that presents location-based, crowd-sourced information to citizens during a crisis or major event. Rosage has been on development teams for various Ushahidi products such as Crowdmap, a location-based reporting tool, and SwiftRiver, a data management system. Before starting at Ushahidi in 2011, Rosage did development work with public sector institutions and private sector groups.

Roger Sayre

US Geological Survey

Roger Sayre is an ecosystems geographer and senior scientist for ecosystems in the Land Change Science Program at the US Geological Survey (USGS). Recently, Sayre's work has focused on terrestrial ecosystems of Africa—he was the lead author on a paper that utilized huge datasets to compile an ultra detailed map of Africa's land cover and use. Before that project, he orchestrated a similar project for South America through the USGS's Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

Huda Petra Shamayleh

AGEDI

Huda Petra Shamayleh is the Project Manager for the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI). AGEDI is a project under the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi designed to provide quality environmental data to facilitate sound environmental and regional planning. Shamayleh is an experienced transportation planner, traffic engineer, and project manager. She has had work published in academic journals such as the American Society of Civil Engineers' Journal of Computing in Civil Engineering and has been a lecturer at Isra University in Jordan and Al Hosn University in Abu Dhabi.

Alanna Simpson

World Bank

Alanna Simpson is Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Labs team. The GFDRR Lab is headquartered at The World Bank Group's Washington, DC office. There, Simpson works to lead programs designed to consolidate environmental data for use by governments or citizens in a crisis situation. She also works with Vivien Deparday on the World Bank's Open Data for Resilience Initiative. Simpson holds her PhD in Geoscience from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.

Yonette Thomas

Association of American Geographers

Yonette Thomas is Senior Advisor to the Association of American Geographers in Washington, DC. She was formerly Associate Vice-President for Research Compliance at Howard University, where she established the Office of Regulatory Research Compliance and worked to ensure that Howard's research programs were held to the highest standards. She has also served as Branch Chief of Epidemiology Research at the National Institute of Health. Thomas holds her PhD in medical sociology and demography from Howard University.

Costis Toregas

George Washington University

Costis Toregas is the Lead Research Scientist in the Department of Computer Science at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. He holds his PhD from Cornell University in Environmental Systems Engineering. His research focus includes the intersection of computer science and public administration as well as intergovernmental information assurance. With these unique specializations, Toregas has excelled in organizations such as the County Council of Montgomery County, MD, as well as the National Academy of Public Administration. Besides his leadership position at GW, Toregas has directed the non-profit organization Public Technology, Inc. since the 80s.

John Wertman

Association of American Geographers

John Wertman serves as Senior Program Manager for Government Relations at the Association of American Geographers (AAG). He is also currently chairing both the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) and the Eye on Earth Disaster Management Special Initiative. His career has focused primarily on positions in and around politics, and he previously served as Special Assistant to the Director of Presidential Letters and Messages at the White House during the Administration of President William Jefferson Clinton. Wertman also held government relations positions at the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), the University of Virginia Medical Center, and the American Urological Association. Wertman holds a BA in Government from the University of Virginia.

Zach Whitman

Deloitte

Zach Whitman is an Advanced Analytics Associate at Deloitte in Arlington, VA. He holds a PhD in Hazard and Disaster Management from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. With a background in Geology, Whitman has consulting experience in dealing with earthquakes, tsunamis, and other geological hazards. He specializes in organizational resilience.

Benson Wilder

U.S. Department of State

Benson Wilder is a Geographer and Policy Analyst at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC. He has worked on visualizing geodata for the State Department's Humanitarian Information Unit on issues such as the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan, and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. He holds his Master's in Geography from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Nathaniel Wolpert

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Nathaniel Wolpert is a geospatial intelligence analyst at the U.S. Department of Defense's National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). He works on the NGA's Disaster Readiness Relief and Recovery Branch.